

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

Ziliang Jin,

File No. 25-CV-01391 (JMB/JFD)

Plaintiff,

v.

ORDER

Kristi Noem, *Secretary of Department of Homeland Security, in her official capacity;*
Todd Lyons, *Acting Director Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in his official capacity;*
and U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement,

Defendants.

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff Ziliang Jin's request to extend an existing Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) for a period of fourteen days. For the reasons stated below, the Court grants the extension request.

On April 17, 2025, Chief Judge Patrick J. Schiltz entered a TRO, requiring Defendants to reinstate Jin's student status in the Student and Exchange Visitor information System (SEVIS), retroactive to April 8, 2025. (Doc. No. 13.) The TRO further enjoined Defendants from taking any additional action to terminate Jin's student status, and from taking any action or imposing any legal consequence as a result of the decision to terminate Jin's SEVIS record, including revoking his visa, detaining him, or deporting him. (*Id.*)

On April 22, 2025, this case was reassigned to the undersigned judge (Doc. No. 20), and argument on the TRO was scheduled for April 28, 2025. (Doc. No. 21.) However, on April 25, the parties jointly requested that the motion hearing be converted into a status

conference due to reports that Defendant United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was developing a new policy to guide SEVIS record terminations and was in the process of reinstating the SEVIS records that had previously been terminated. The Court granted the parties' joint request and held a status conference on April 28.

At the status conference, the parties provided information to the Court concerning ICE's upcoming policy change and Defendants' actions to comply with the initial TRO. Also at the hearing, Defendants requested that the Court allow the TRO to expire with no further injunctive relief ordered. Jin opposed this request, urging the Court to extend the TRO for an additional period of fourteen days.¹ Jin argued that good cause to extend existed because although Defendants represented that ICE was currently developing a policy, Defendants were unable to provide the Court with information regarding the substance of the policy or its expected date of implementation. Given these unknowns, the Court finds that there is good cause to extend the TRO to provide Defendants additional time to clarify their policy.

Jin also argued that good cause to extend the TRO exists because the effects of the SEVIS policy shift are unknown for plaintiffs such as Jin, who had their SEVIS records reinstated per Court order, as opposed to someone whose record is reinstated as a result of the upcoming policy change. Jin raised a concern that because his SEVIS record was reinstated pursuant to the court order, allowing the TRO to expire could result in the

¹ The Court also invited the parties to make arguments regarding whether to convert the initial TRO into a Preliminary Injunction that would remain in place for the pendency of the lawsuit. At this time, the Court declines to do so.

re-termination of his SEVIS record. Defendants were unable to offer any assurances regarding the impact of the expiration of the TRO. In the absence of such assurances, the Court finds good cause to extend the TRO.

Finally, Jin noted that registration for next semester's courses is currently ongoing, and he is concerned that further unexpected changes to his SEVIS status could prevent him from enrolling in courses for next semester, thus jeopardizing his ability to maintain student status and impeding his academic trajectory. Given the importance of course registration, and the current uncertainty surrounding SEVIS records, the Court has good cause to extend the TRO.

For the reasons provided, the Court extends the initial TRO. Based on the foregoing, and on all of the files, records, and proceedings herein, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Plaintiff Ziliang Jin's motion to extend the temporary restraining order is GRANTED.
2. Defendants are required to continue to set aside their determination to mark Jin's F-1 student status as terminated. Defendants shall ensure that Jin's student status and SEVIS authorization remain active, retroactive to April 8, 2025.
3. Defendants remain temporarily enjoined from taking any further action to terminate Jin's student status, and from taking any action or imposing any legal consequence as a result of the decision to terminate Jin's SEVIS record, including revoking his visa, detaining him, or deporting him.
4. This Order takes effect immediately and shall continue until its expiration in fourteen days. On or before May 8, 2025, the parties are ordered to brief the Court as to whether good cause exists to further extend the TRO.

Dated: April 29, 2025

/s/ Jeffrey M. Bryan
Judge Jeffrey M. Bryan
United States District Court